



SERMON CHEAT SHEET

THE COURAGEOUS CHRIST | John 18:1-27

JESUS IS IN CONTROL: A POWERFUL KING WHO CHOOSES THE CROSS

A KING WHO FREELY GIVES HIMSELF

On the night of Jesus' arrest, we often picture Him as a helpless victim cornered by Roman soldiers and betrayal. However, this view can't be further from the truth. In John 18, Jesus goes out to meet the soldiers, asking, 'Who is it you want?' This action highlights His agency; He is not fleeing but boldly engaging. As He declares 'I am' and the soldiers fall back, it becomes clear that even in His capture, He fully operates from a place of power and control. This moment signifies that Jesus willingly offers Himself, embodying the true heart of a king who puts his people's safety first, even at His own expense.

THE SAVIOR WHO SPEAKS THE TRUTH

When faced with interrogation from the high priests, Jesus reveals the depths of His character. Instead of cowering or negotiating for His safety, He boldly states that He has always taught openly, challenging the legality of the situation. Here lies a profound lesson for us: courage isn't just about physical strength but involves speaking truth to power. As Jesus waits for witnesses and refers the officials back to those who have heard Him, He reflects a confidence in His mission and purpose. We, too, are called to stand firm in the truth, even when faced with opposition and discomfort.

PATIENCE IN LIGHT OF FAILURE

As the narrative shifts to Peter, we see a stark contrast between the courage of Jesus and Peter's frailty. Amidst the pressing circumstances, Peter denies knowing Jesus out of fear, his betrayal punctuated by the crowing of a rooster, foreshadowing the brokenness of human loyalty. Yet, what Jesus demonstrates is remarkable patience. Even knowing Peter would falter, He still chooses him for His mission. This encouragement reinforces that our failures do not disqualify us from God's grace or purpose; rather, they reveal our need for His unwavering support and restoration.

PREPARATION FOR EASTER: NOT AS A VICTIM, BUT AS A VICTOR

As we approach Good Friday and Easter, it's crucial how we frame our understanding of Jesus' sacrifice. If we view Him as merely a tragic victim, we miss the significance of His choice to go to the cross. Rather, Jesus embraces His mission with intention; His triumphant declaration on Friday transforms into victory on Sunday.

LIVE IT OUT THIS WEEK

- Set aside time this week to reflect on the weight of Jesus' sacrifice and the control He exerted over the events leading to the cross.
- Think of a situation in your life where you may feel like you're losing control. Pray and ask Jesus to help you see His plan in that circumstance.
- Consciously reflect upon any areas in your life where fear has led you to deny your faith and look for opportunities to affirm it instead.

PRAYER PROMPTS

- Pray for the courage to see Jesus as the powerful king who willingly chose the cross for us.
- Ask God to help you identify and step into moments where you can share truth, even in uncomfortable situations.
- Request God's grace for areas where you've struggled with faithfulness, that you may experience His patience and forbearance.